

## PASTORAL CARE

Those seeking pastoral care are requested to contact one of the following:

Kenn Stright office: 423-1944  
Valerie Macdonald home: 455-1893



**MISSION MOMENTS:** Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Tyndale St.-Georges Community Centre in Montreal's Little Burgundy neighbourhood as it works to ensure that each member of the community has the opportunities and skills to help realize their potential. The high school perseverance program matches students with peers or older students. Participants gain skills and confidence that lead to more regular school attendance and higher grades, and mentors gain awareness of individual differences and satisfaction from using their abilities to help others. Noah, a volunteer in the program says, "I think if we want a brighter future and a more intelligent community, then we have to help each other out and do our best to succeed together."

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP** Remember Earth Hour April 1. Give thanks for congregations that are taking steps to reduce their carbon footprint. We pray that we reflect God's love of creation in our lives.

**STEWARDSHIP** In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.  
*-Iroquois Confederacy Maxim*

We welcome younger children to our services! **The 3 R's at Saint David's** - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. **This is a 'scent free' zone for the comfort of all.**

We welcome all who are worshipping here today! If you are here for the first time, please sign the Guest Book at the main entrance. Our Greeter this morning is Colin MacPherson. Our scripture reader for this morning is Colin Roop. Refreshments - Elizabeth Fraser.



1544 Grafton Street at Blowers, Halifax

**Minister:** Kenn Stright

**Organist:** Freeman Dryden **Clerk of Session:** Val Macdonald

## WELCOME!

We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning!  
**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Lent 4 - March 26, 2017**

*\*All who are able are asked to stand.*

### Our Vision

***A Worshiping, Sharing, Welcoming Community***

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**Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!**  
**Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think, for thoughts come unbidden. Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past. Give us courage, O God, to hear your Word and to read our living into it. Give us the trust to know we're forgiven and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk.**

Anne Weems in 'Kneeling in Jerusalem'

## God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

\*The Entry of the Scriptures

Call to Worship: *Most did not recognize Jesus when he came to us long ago. Today we ask for faith that will open our eyes to see Jesus for who he is, that we might worship him in truth. We open our eyes to see his glory. We open our ears to hear his wisdom. We open our hands to offer him gifts. We open our mouths to sing his praise. We open our hearts to offer him our love.*

### Lenten Liturgy:

\*Hymn: O for a thousand tongues **374**  
Confession: *Jesus, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Being so sure that we "see," we miss the truths you would teach us. With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness. Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, our own failures and our own faults. Make our "shadow side" known to us and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly. In your name we pray.*

## We Hear God's Word

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.*

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 23 ❖ *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff- they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.*

\*Hymn: The wise may bring their learning **344**

Conversation with the children: Fanny

From the letters: Ephesians 5: 8-14

Gospel: John 9: 1-41

*One: The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ*

\*Hymn: Amazing Grace **670**

Sermon: Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord

## We Respond to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem:

\*Doxology: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow" **830**

Offertory Prayer

Announcements:

Prayers of the People:

The Lord's Prayer ("debts & debtors")

## We Go Out to Serve God

\*Hymn: All the way my Saviour leads me **699**

\*Commissioning:

\*Choral Amen:

Postlude:

**Worship is now ended let our service begin!**

THIS WEEK - (March 26- April 2)		
Today	9:00 am	Early service
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Traditional service and Sunday School
	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Lenten Study in the minister's study</b>
Thursday	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Friday		David's Place
Sunday	9:00 am	Early service
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer
	11:00 am	Traditional service and Sunday School
	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Lenten Study in the minister's study</b>

blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

**You are** invited to participate in a study program today after church exploring the Sunday Lenten readings, **“Learning from the Lectionary.”** Feel free to join us for any or all the series!  
Lent 5: Ezekiel 37: 1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11: 1-45

Once again Saint David's is being asked to support the snack program at **Phoenix House**. This is a once a year contribution that goes towards healthy snacks for the youth who use Phoenix's facilities. We have been asked to provide \$175 and anyone who wishes to contribute is asked to give their donations to Carol Dobson or Anne Sommerville (income tax receipts will be issued). Thank you for supporting this worthwhile endeavour.

**Phoenix** has partnered with The Big Sing and we'll be hosting a special night at St. Andrews United Church (corner of Coburg and Robie) on Monday, March 27 at 7:00 pm.

#### **Halifax Lunenburg Presbyterial**

Spring Fellowship will be held Tuesday, March 28, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dartmouth at 11:30 A.M. Bring a brown bag lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. The theme for the day will be TIME TO TALK. Reflection on the Church Reaching Out. Join us for a time of sharing God's work and plan for our Churches.



**1 Samuel 16:1-13** The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for *the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.*" Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**Ephesians 5:8-14** For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. *Live as children of light-* for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ***Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.*** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to

mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, " Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

**John 9:1-41** As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.



His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*" When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born